

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 5, 7-9 and 13-18 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 7-9 and 13-18 stand rejected.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 5 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by **Inoue et al.** (USP 6,226,449). For the reasons set forth in detail below, this rejection, to the extent it is considered to apply to the amended claims, is respectfully traversed.

According to amended claim 1, a plurality of folders are formed in a recording medium for managing a plurality of image files. An attacher is attached to the recording medium. A folder number detector detects folder identification numbers which respectively represent the folders formed in the recording medium. The folder identification numbers detected by the folder number detector are displayed on a screen by a folder number displayer. A selector accepts a selecting operation to select any one of the folder identification numbers displayed by the folder number displayer in parallel with a display process of the folder number displayer.

A file number detector detects only a count value obtained by counting the number of image files managed by a folder holding the folder identification number selected by the selecting operation out of count values obtained by counting for each folder the number of image files managed by the folders formed in the recording medium. Furthermore, a total file number detector detects a total number of the image files recorded in the recording medium.

A file number displayer displays the count value detected by the file number detector and the total number of image files detected by the total file number detector on the screen on which the folder identification numbers are displayed by the folder number displayer. In addition, an information search mode is set by an information search mode selector.

In accordance with the present invention, folder identification numbers, the total number of image files recorded in the recording medium and a count value of the number of image files managed by a currently selected folder are detected and concurrently displayed in response to setting of the information search mode.

Accordingly, the selecting operation is assisted by the folder identification numbers on the screen. Furthermore, the count value on the screen is changed in response to the selecting operation, while the total number on the screen continues to indicate the same numerical value irrespective of the selecting operation. Therefore, it is possible to easily and quickly grasp a management state of the image files in the recording medium.

According to amended claim 13, a reproducer reproduces a designated image file out of a plurality of image files which are managed by a plurality of folders formed in a recording medium when a reproduction mode is selected. A first detector detects folder identification numbers which respectively identify the folders formed in the recording medium when an information search mode is selected. A total number of the image files recorded in the recording medium is detected by a second detector in relation to a detecting process of the first detector.

A third detector detects only a count value obtained by counting the number of image files managed by a folder corresponding to a designated folder identification number out of count

values obtained by counting for each folder the number of image files managed by the folders formed in the recording medium.

A displayer concurrently displays on a screen the folder identification numbers, the total number and the count value which are respectively detected by the first detector, the second detector and the third detector. A number renewing operation is accepted by an acceptor in parallel with a display process of the displayer. The designated folder identification number noted by the third detector is renewed by a renewer in response to the renewing operation accepted by the acceptor.

Accordingly, the renewing operation is assisted by the folder identification numbers on the screen. Furthermore, the count value on the screen is changed in response to the renewing operation, while the total number on the screen continues to indicate the same numerical value irrespective of the renewing operation. Therefore, it is possible to easily and quickly grasp a management state of the image files in the recording medium.

In contrast to the presently claimed invention, **Inoue et al.** disclose displaying on a screen folder identification numbers and count values obtained by counting for each folder the number of image files managed by the folders. However, according to Figure 6 of **Inoue et al.**, the count values are simultaneously displayed on the screen. This makes a display process complicated, and such a complicated display process takes a long time for displaying information. Further, a large amount of the displayed information prevents an operator from quickly understanding contents of the displayed information.

Furthermore, according to Figures 6 and 7 of **Inoue et al.**, when a right arrow switch is depressed, a count value corresponding to a selected folder is displayed on a screen which is different from the screen on which the folder identification numbers are displayed. That is, updating of a screen by depressing the right arrow switch is required for displaying a single count value, causing a deterioration of operability.

In addition, **Inoue et al.** fail to disclose or remotely suggest anything about a constitution of the present invention which displays the folder identification numbers and only a count value corresponding to a designated folder on the same screen.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that **Inoue et al.** does not anticipate the invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 13, and claims dependent therefrom. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under §102 are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 7 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Inoue et al.** (USP 6,226,449 B1) in view of **Anderson et al.** (USP 5,861,918, previously cited). Claims 8 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Inoue et al.** (USP 6,226,449 B1) in view of **Anderson et al.** (USP 6,507,363 B1, previously cited). Claims 9 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Inoue et al.** (USP 6,226,449 B1) in view of **Kim et al.** (USP 6,496,361 B2, previously cited).

Dependent claims 7-9 and 16-18 were rejected over **Inoue et al.** in combination with **Anderson et al.** '918, **Anderson et al.** '363 and **Kim et al.**, all of which references were previously cited and discussed in previous responses.

It is submitted that neither **Anderson et al.** '918, **Anderson et al.** '363 nor **Kim et al.** alleviate any of the deficiencies of **Inoue et al.** discussed above. Further, it is submitted that these references do not alleviate the deficiencies of **Inoue et al.** for the reasons discussed in the previous responses.

Accordingly, each of dependent claims 7-9 and 16-18 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 13.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

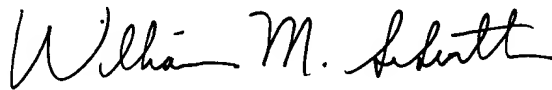
Application No. 09/873,413
Art Unit: 2615

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116
Attorney Docket No.: 010728

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Schertler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" and middle initial "M." clearly visible, followed by a stylized "Schertler".

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